

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ABERDEEN, IDAHO

and

NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RENO, NEVADA

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF BALTIC RUSH
FOR LAND RESOURCE REGION D NORTH
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Nevada Division of Agriculture announce the release of a selected ecotype of Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) D North.

As a Selected release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as the Stillwater selection of Baltic Rush to document its original collection location. The Stillwater selection is released as a Selected Class of certified seed (natural track).

This alternative release procedure is justified because existing commercial sources of Baltic Rush are inadequate. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for ecosystem restoration, enhancement, and construction of wetlands. The potential for immediate use is high, and commercial potential beyond specific wetland uses is probably limited. No commercial cultivars of Baltic Rush have been released at this time.

Species:	<i>Juncus balticus</i> Willd.
Common Name:	Baltic Rush
Plant Symbol:	JUBA
Accession Number:	9057632

Source: Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, northwest of the town of Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada.

Collection area Information: Stands are located within the boundaries of the Stillwater NWR. Very little variability among JUBA stands was observed within the boundaries of the NWR. This variability was judged to be inconsequential. Therefore, any collection of JUBA located within the NWR boundary would be considered a constituent of this Selected Release. Elevation is approximately 3900 feet, the soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams.

Method of Selection: From a Baltic Rush collections found in Land Resource Region (LRR) D North, which includes Major Land Resource Regions (MLRAs) 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27.

A total of 14 JUBA collections from the Aberdeen PMC Service Area were evaluated from 1991 to 1995. All collections were evaluated for survival, vigor, overall growth and spread, potential seed production, and above ground biomass production. The Stillwater collection outperformed all other collections from D North and ranked number two overall for all collections of JUBA. It also ranked number one in aboveground biomass production for all accessions tested from the Aberdeen PMC Service Area. The Stillwater selection of Baltic Rush was selected for its above

ground biomass production, rapid spreading from rhizomes, vigor, height, and potential seed production.

Description: *Juncus balticus* is a perennial, rhizomatous, facultative wetland plant. Stems are upright, round, wiry, and grow up to 3 feet tall. Leaf sheaths are clustered at the base, bladeless or nearly so. The inflorescence consist of panicles borne laterally on the culms.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential uses of the Stillwater selection of *Juncus balticus* include erosion control, Constructed Wetland System applications, wildlife food/cover, wetland creations and restorations, and for increasing plant diversity in wetland and riparian communities. Its tendency to spread rhizomatously makes the Stillwater selection an excellent plant for soil stabilization in sites which are saturated up to 2 or 3 inches of standing water. The rhizomes also form a matrix for many beneficial bacteria making this plant an excellent choice for wastewater treatment.

Potential Area of Adaptation: *Juncus balticus* is facultative wetland plant, commonly found around the borders of wetlands, and meadows throughout the intermountain west. It inhabits poorly drained soils which are saturated or have up to 2 or 3 inches of standing water. It will tolerate periods of inundation. The Stillwater selection would be an excellent choice for use throughout the ecoregion defined as LRR D North.

Seed Maintenance: Breeders seed will NOT be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center. To make collections of the Stillwater selection of Baltic Rush, contact the Refuge Manager, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1236, Fallon, NV 89406-1236, (702) 423-5128.

Signature sheet for release of a selected class of:

Stillwater Selection of Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR)
D North from Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, northwest of the town of
Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada.

Luana E. Kiger
Idaho State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date

William D. Goddard
Nevada State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date

Director
Nevada State Division of Agriculture

Date

Gary R. Norstrom
Director
Biological Conservation Sciences Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date